

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph [0047] beginning at page 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0047] Still further, the multiplexer according to the present invention may further include: a management information generating unit operable to multiplex flag information for specifying the storage rule of the side information, into management information regarding the packet-multiplexed data ~~packet-multiplexed by the multiplexing unit~~; and a linking unit operable to link the management information with the packet-multiplexed data.